

QUESTION 3114

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Question 3114 for written reply, National Assembly: Mrs JF Terblanche (DA) to ask the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries:

- (1) Whether she is investigating the alleged use of veterinary tranquillisers by rhino poachers; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (2) Whether she has found that there are adequate controls in respect of veterinary tranquillisers in terms of (a) who may administer them, (b) safe and secure storage and (c) reporting use to a monitoring authority; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (3) Whether her department is looking at identifying any new interventions in the control of veterinary tranquillisers; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details;
- (4) Whether her department has conducted any investigations since 1 January 2009 into the illegal use of veterinary tranquillisers for the purpose of harvesting rhino horn; if not, why not; if so, what are the relevant details? **NW3638E**

REPLY:

The tranquilizers are not regulated in terms of Act 36 of 1947, i.e. the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

All the tranquilizers, sedatives and anesthetics are registered and regulated by Department of Health in terms of the Medicines and Related Substances Act, 1965 (Act 101 of 1965).

All the tranquilizers, sedatives and anesthetics are high schedule drugs in terms of Act 101 of 1965. Only veterinarians registered with the South African Veterinary Council are allowed to access and use these groups of drugs. The South African Veterinary Council may also permit certain individuals who are non veterinarians to access and use some of these drugs.

Therefore, it is the Department of Health and the South African Veterinary Council who can assist with answers to these questions.